



Boston, March 10<sup>th</sup> 1840.

My dear friend,

Your letter & newspapers, with those of George Thompson, were received with great satisfaction for great interest. How many thanks do I owe both of you, for keeping me informed of your movements on this B. I. question. One so interesting from its very nature alone that one would think every human soul as stamped with the infinite must be drawn irresistibly to its subject. I see you are occasionally encountering the hostile feeling that grows out of want of conviction that "our country is the world - our countrymen all mankind" - as in the feelings excited in the minds of the Chartists. If a feeling be raised in the midst of a people that is striving for its own benefit which shall induce that people to labour for others, the moral foundation is laid on which the superstructure of their own claims can be erected. But while self is the dominant idea, there can be no self-sacrifice, & without self-sacrifice no salvation. Therefore I lament that those who are



striving for the right of suffrage in England should not rejoice to see wrong abolished in India, or should think that their own case would not be improved by efforts to ameliorate suffering in any part of the globe. I have just returned from a very interesting meeting at Lynn at which the position of the friends as an anti Slavery Society (which position the friends of America claim to occupy) was discussed. It appeared clearly that the action of the Society of friends in America is hostile to the cause of Freedom. It was a trial to the feelings of our respected friend William Bassett to be obliged by his knowledge & his conscience to bear testimony against the Society he so much loves & of which he has been, till he espoused the cause of the slave, one of the most honoured members.

I know him well, & I know that the laying down of the high reputation he has ever sustained with the Society, was but <sup>a</sup> trifling <sup>sacrifice</sup> in his eyes. His grief was to be obliged for the truth's sake & for the slave's sake to admit that "the most fine gold had changed." If the action of your yearly meeting could be brought to bear upon the Society of friends here, the effect would, I trust, be most beneficial to our cause.

We are in hot conflict with the political demon. It cries out that we torment it not by calling our cause a religious question, & I grieve to say that some are deceived, I hope only temporarily, by its suggestions. The fact is that the movement for



A.S.

distinct nominations in Western New York, (where  
the idea is strongest) was suggested & urged by  
the Democratic party there, to weaken the forces of  
the Whigs, & put them in the minority. Some of the  
abolitionists here received, & instead of maintaining  
a position from whence they could influence the politi-  
cians, suffered the politicians to make use of them.

The Garrison-haters in Massachusetts joyfully  
seized the idea as one which would prolong their ex-  
istence by giving them a more plausible pretext for  
opposition to the Massachusetts Anti Slavery Society.

It is wise I think, that the treachery which it is  
important to the cause to expose here, should not  
be noticed <sup>in England</sup> otherwise than by that natural coldness  
which involuntarily comes over us when we meet  
one whom we know has betrayed principles  
& persons. If I knew that any of the British anti  
slavery ~~had~~ <sup>had</sup> actively but secretly opposed your  
Bourbon India Movement while they pretended to  
desire its success, I could not put them in every  
respect on a level with G. I., should they  
present themselves with him at a convention  
here. But I ~~should~~ <sup>perennially hope</sup> not trouble general interests  
by local difficulties; & how greatly should I re-  
joice to be present at the Congress in June  
to see all who have become so well known  
to me in heart, though their faces are unknown - to  
meet George Thompson once more on earth - to  
see you, dear Anna, with whom I feel almost  
personally intimate since hearing so much of you &  
your kind words from our friends the Phillips', would  
indeed be a joy. But it will be one that could

Many conscientiously do what they would  
if they were not - for of that they have seen



as not to be mortified, will excuse me of. I hope our dear friends Garrison - Lucretia Mott & others will be present & we must try to live on their descriptions & reports on their return.

You suggest to me the preparation of some thing which may aid your cause - our cause - the cause of British India. I will not promise, but it shall be nothing but dissatisfaction with the effort after I have made it that shall prevent my complying. I will submit my best exertions to the decision of my best judgment; & the

1  
Great Street

Elizabeth Pease

Washington  
Mass

later approving, you shall have the result. But I fear my will <sup>may</sup> be greater than my power. With most affectionate regards I am your friend, Maria Weston Chapman.

Remember me with my husband & sisters to Mr. Thompson, with ever increasing affection & esteem